





The Call
of
ALGONQUIN



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ALGONQUIN

A Biography of a Summer Camp

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Foreword by

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Preface

FOR SOME TIME the campers of Tanamakoon have been asking for this story. Moreover it did seem that after twenty-eight years of experience in organized camping we should have discovered something worth passing on to directors and counsellors just entering the profession. Also, there was the hope that in writing this book it would give the parent a greater insight into camp life, its joys, its problems, and its possibilities that through that insight and resultant co-operation there would be a richer fulfilment of the hopes of the parent and the longings of the child.

The Call of Algonquin is by no means a success story, far from it. Mistakes and failures at Tanamakoon were without number but through them we learned together some of our most important lessons. Working with counsellors and campers has been an experience for which I shall always be grateful.

Much of the credit for this book goes to anonymous Tanamakoon people whose verses and memoirs I have used to serve my purpose.

My thanks and appreciation go to Jean (Spidell) Haines for her helpful suggestions and criticisms; to Nancy (Porter) Outram and Ann (Grey) Richmond respectively for their accounts of a canoe trip and a counsellor's half day.

I am indebted also to Dorothy N. R. Jackson and Elizabeth (Wardley) Raymer for helping to compile the different periods in the chapter on Training Canadian Counsellors and to Dorothy Douglas of the Ontario Camping Association for her assistance in collecting data on Camping in Canada.

I am deeply grateful to Miss Enid McGregor for her constant encouragement and inspiration and for giving so generously of her time in the revision of the text, to Dr. Mary Northway for queries and suggestions which stimulated my thinking, and to Miss Charlotte Layton by means of whose selfless interest this book has been brought to a completion and made ready for publication.

Credit for the photography is due especially to John Palmer, formerly of Toronto, now of Rochester, N.Y.

—M. G. H.

Foreword

IT IS A PRIVILEGE to write a foreword to Miss Hamilton's book *The Call of Algonquin* — a story of camp and of camping.

For ten years it was a rich experience to live and work in Algonquin Park, to know the camps, to meet the campers as they travelled by canoe through the Park and to try to understand something of the great work the camp directors and counsellors are doing for the youth of Ontario.

Each summer they hurried to camp, young, awkward and perhaps a little afraid. Each fall they left, competent, confident and taking with them the priceless experience of a summer in the wilderness.

In the peaceful hills and quiet lakes of Algonquin rise the little springs that, tumbling over the rocks and beaver dams into quiet lakes, form the reservoirs for all the great rivers of Southern Ontario.

Through these same hills and lakes pass ever-increasing generations of boys and girls staying a summer or two to gather strength and character and then hurrying on their eager way to accept life's responsibilities. When they return again and again to the Park and the woods they gain renewal of strength.

To read Miss Hamilton's book is to live again the mystery and adventure of childhood, the first camp, the first canoe trip, the first night in the woods with all its mystery and wonder.

This is more than a book about a camp. It is a philosophy of camping and camper training.

From her unselfish nature, Miss Hamilton has given of her great experience and wisdom of youth to all camps and to all campers. For that we are grateful to her.

—F. A. MACDOUGALL,
Deputy Minister of Lands and Forests



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